

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act requires federal agencies' electronic and information technology (IT) to be accessible to individuals with disabilities. It specifically requires that when federal agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology, they ensure that it is accessible, unless it would pose an undue burden to do so.

But the regulations do not apply to the legislative and judicial branches, state and local governments, or the private sector. If we truly are a government of, for and by the people, then every American must have access to it. Today, the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus and the Congressional Internet Caucus teamed up with the American Foundation for the Blind, HIR, Microsoft, Adobe and Freedom Scientific to demonstrate how easy it is to comply with Section 508 in making websites accessible.

Today's "Congressional Web Accessibility Day" educated Members' staff and the American public on Section 508 and the importance of making government accessible. Through one-on-one sessions with HIR web experts and hands-on, interactive learning, this event was an important first step toward making government accessible.

Web accessibility is not just for the 54 million individuals with disabilities or for the millions of elderly Americans with diminished vision, hearing and other senses, but for any one of us who might one day need this technology. It also provides more options for a typical user who may prefer text over fancy graphics. With 68 million American adults using government agency websites, this typical user is evolving into a powerful "e-citizen."

I hope that today's event marks the beginning of some exciting, new changes in Congress.

The time has come for us to make our websites accessible to our growing e-citizenry. The progress has begun in the federal agencies, and now Congress needs to follow suit.

### CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the enactment of Title IX. Prior to the enactment of Title IX, educational and career opportunities were extremely limited for women. In 1971, less than 300,000 girls participated in high school sports compared to 3.6 million male athletes the same year. Today, this number has risen to over 2.4 million female athletes. Women have continued to demonstrate that, when given the opportunity, they, too, are fully qualified to be successful participants in athletics and education.

In the past 30 years, women have gained numerous other advantages from the passage of this historic legislation. Scholarships provided to women in increased numbers since passage of Title IX have opened doors that were otherwise closed to women. In 1971, only 18% of women finished four years of college; today more female students than male successfully complete a four-year college edu-

cation and go on to obtain a Master's degree. It is because of historic Title IX, which prohibits gender discrimination in federally funded schools, that women have been able to overcome these barriers.

While much has been accomplished since the enactment of this legislation, much still remains to be done. We need to be vigilant in our enforcement of Title IX and provide the funding needed to help our schools fully comply with the law. We need to fight for the passage of legislation that will ensure equality for women once they enter the workforce. Although today the majority of students are women, as is the majority of the U.S. population, women face continued inequalities in the workplace. In my home state of Michigan where pay inequity is at its worst, women make just 67 cents for every dollar men earn. This is inexcusable, and it has to stop. We should view Title IX not as a completed effort, but as a first step in ensuring equality for women.

With the passage of Title IX, our Nation declared that it is in our best interest to allow all men and women an equal chance to excel in any field or activity to which they commit themselves. It was pledged that all individuals should be given the same opportunities to realize their potential throughout their education and professional lives. We need to work harder to ensure that no American suffers discrimination on the basis of gender. We cannot rest until all women, all Americans, receive the opportunities they deserve. In my 26 years in Congress, I have committed myself to working toward the ideals of justice and equality for women, and I will continue to make this effort among my top priorities.

### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL FORCES

SPEECH OF

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2002*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United States Army Special Forces and honor a great American hero and "Father of the Green Berets," Colonel Aaron Bank.

Perhaps more than ever, our generation appreciates the unique and vital mission of the U.S. Special Forces. They are the elite, unconventional warfare arm of the United States military and our Nation is at a place in history where our greatest threat is from the unpredictable foes they are trained to fight.

In a time when many of us have fears and doubts about the vulnerability of our Nation to future attacks, we can continue to have hope in the shield provided to us by the Special Forces. In valor, courage, and fidelity, the Special Forces are the world's finest fighting force and I am thankful that they are in the business of protecting the United States of America and its citizens.

Due to the covert nature of many of their missions, both the measure of their sacrifice and their contribution to freedom here and abroad may never be known. However, today, I hope all Americans will join me in celebrating their 50th anniversary and thanking them for giving more to this country than could ever be repaid and perhaps, could ever be measured.

I wish to especially extend my appreciation to Colonel Aaron Bank, the founder and first commander of the Special Forces. As an operative in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II, he led his team on missions to hunt down high-ranking Nazi leaders, search for missing allied prisoners in Indochina and lead a counter-intelligence cell in Germany. It was clear there was a place for such operations using highly trained unconventional forces. So, when the OSS was disbanded after World War II, Colonel Bank began working to convince the U.S. Army to adopt a permanent unconventional warfare force. After tireless efforts, the U.S. Army launched its first Special Forces unit, the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) with Colonel Bank, appropriately, as its first commander.

Since then, the U.S. Army Special Forces has spawned special operations units from the other military branches such as the Navy SEALs, Air Force Combat Controllers, and the Marines' Force Recon. We have Colonel Bank to thank for emphasizing the strategic and tactical importance of such units, which he modeled in designing, implementing and commanding the Army's first Special Forces unit.

In passing H. Con. Res. 364, Congress not only recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Special Forces, but also acknowledges the invaluable contribution of a great American and outstanding soldier, Colonel Aaron Bank. At age ninety-nine, he is a living legend and I consider it an honor and privilege to participate in recognizing both his contribution and the legacy of his vision and foresight, the United States Special Forces.

My most sincere gratitude goes out to Colonel Bank and his fellow Green Berets as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Army Special Forces.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO MISSOURI OFFICERS ASSOCIATION ON 70TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 21, 2002*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of The Missouri Officers Association, which represents over 900 Federal, State, and local police officers.

I would like to honor this organization in this, their 70th year, for their charitable work and dedication to scholarship and community. The primary focus of the officer's association is to provide low cost training to police agencies across the State of Missouri. Another very notable deed is the provision of an immediate \$1000 death benefit to families of fallen officers.

Beyond their efforts in the law enforcement community, the association organizes two scholarship programs. The first is a yearly college scholarship that awards \$1000 to five Missouri students and the second is an essay contest for eighth grade students, which awards six students cash awards totaling \$1200.

The philanthropic work of this organization also extends to the community through a variety of donations to groups such as Concern of Police Survivors, Ronald McDonald House,